

number twice those from any other State. Not for a moment did she think of deserting her associates. Terms with one must be terms with all. In this spirit Senator William A. Graham, in full accord and after consultation with General Lee, introduced the peace commission resolution, which was adopted; and he would have gone out as its Chairman, but for Mr. Stephens' unexpectedly accepting the complimentary tender of the position which Mr. Davis thought his state of health would compel him to decline. General Lee not only approved, but urged the measure and prompt action, saying, "My lines may be broken any night, and where I am to rally, I do not know. The truth is, I shall not rally at all." When told that the commission was appointed, but their hands were tied by the President's instructions to insist upon the recognition of our independence, he exclaimed, not profanely, but with great feeling, "I wish to God that I was dead; the war is over, and Mr. Davis ought to acknowledge it."

This account of the origin of the Peace Commission of January, 1865, and of General Lee's full concurrence with him, I received from Governor Graham just after the close of the war. He also said that Mr. Davis explained this complimentary tender to Mr. Stephens as an effort to conciliate him. From U. S. Official Records it is now evident this referred to a sharp and bitter correspondence in the matter of Mr. David F. Cable, of Ohio.

What was General Lee to do? A soldier cannot resign his sword while under fire. He must see the battle through first. And there had been almost a continuous battle since the first of the preceding May. Congress raised him to the first rank of General-in-Chief of the Confederate States Armies; but it had not yet empowered him to treat for peace. It was afterwards further understood by us that in some way, General Grant was sounded by him and had declared himself powerless to settle any question not purely military.

Of course, the Commission accomplished nothing. Diplomacy made all out of the Federal refusal of independence that was possible. There were bonfires and speeches in Richmond; but they did not decrease the overwhelming num-